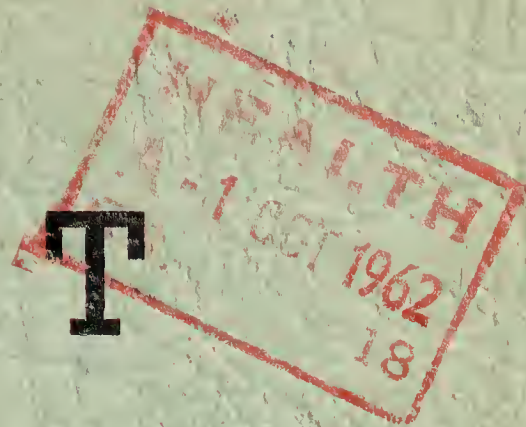


REPORT



TO THE

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1961

BY

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

S. CLOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

E. B. MILLER, C.R.S.H.

Mrs. J. FULLERTON - *Clerk/Typist.*

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Bellingham :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

The circumstances of the district did not alter appreciably during the year. This very large Rural District is thinly populated and has considerable difficulties of communications. The opportunities for employment are virtually limited to forestry and agriculture, and it is not easy to see how further employment could be provided. In spite of the general drift from rural areas, Bellingham continues to retain a stable population, and much has been done by the Council to provide amenities where this can be done at reasonable cost. The great difficulty in the extension of these amenities is cost, with the result that such services as scavenging, mains water and sewage schemes cannot be carried much beyond their present scope.

The birth and death rates are very close to the national average. With a small population, even a few deaths in infancy give a large infant death rate per 1,000, at this figure, and the still birth rate compares unfavourably with England and Wales generally. Too much importance cannot, therefore, be attached to these figures, and they must be considered over a number of years. The majority of the deaths in general have been due to heart disease in some form, and have occurred in people over 70.

Apart from measles, which was prevalent throughout the county, few cases of infectious disease were notified. The eradication of tuberculosis among cattle is having its effect, and non-pulmonary tuberculosis has ceased to be a cause for concern. It is some years since a case was notified, and the absence of it, together with diphtheria, poliomyelitis and whooping cough, indicates the value of preventive measures. Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, with no deaths.

During the year the building continued of 21 houses at Otterburn and 5 houses for old people were planned for Bellingham. The 4 bungalows at Wark were completed. No further houses are under consideration at present, and the

need appears to have been largely met. Improvement grants are of particular value in a rural area, where poor property cannot easily be replaced by new building, and to date 182 houses have been brought up to acceptable standards. This total now slightly exceeds the Council-owned houses, and indicates how the need for Council houses is being reduced by the generous use of discretionary grants. Standard improvement grants are not being asked for by owners to the same extent, probably because of the more extensive work required to provide the necessary amenities.

The Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to provide an ample and wholesome supply to most of the district. A number of additional schemes have been undertaken in recent years at an increasing cost per house, and the latest proposed extension to supply Knowesgate is very expensive : it is awaiting Ministry approval. Regular samples of water are taken by the Company, and the results have been satisfactory. Private and proposed supplies are investigated by the local authority, and 5 of 16 such samples were satisfactory. The present position as regards the distribution of public mains water is given in the Public Health Inspector's report.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Otterburn was almost completed during 1961, and Ministry approval was given to a scheme for Kirkwhelpington. The proposed scheme for the village of Ridsdale is still under consideration by the Ministry, as the decision whether or not to proceed with it must be difficult. Permission has been given to extend the West Woodburn scheme to include properties south of the river. The completion of these schemes, in hand or proposed, should see the end of the major part of the very extensive amenities in water and sewage disposal undertaken by the Council.

In presenting this report, I have again to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, and to the Clerk and other officials for their co-operation. I am grateful to the staff of the Health Department for their capable services.

I am,

Your obedient Serant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population, estimated at 30th June, 1961, was 5,410, a decrease of 10 on the previous year.

Death Rate

69 deaths were registered during 1961, giving a death rate of 12.75 per 1,000 population. The figure for England and Wales is 12.0 per 1,000.

Birth Rate

There were 84 live births during the year, and when an adjustment factor is applied this gives a birth rate of 17.37 per 1,000 population. This is to be compared with the national figure of 17.4 per 1,000.

With 4 still births, the still birth rate is 45.4 per 1,000 births, compared with 18.7 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality

3 infants died under the age of one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 35.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with the national rate of 21.4 per 1,000.

To Summarise :

Live births	.. .. .	84
Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	17.37
	<i>(England & Wales 17.4 per 1,000)</i>	
Illegitimate live births..	.. .. .	7
Per cent of total live births	.. .. .	8.33
Still births	.. .. .	4
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	.. .. .	45.4
	<i>(England & Wales 18.7 per 1,000)</i>	
Total live and still births	.. .. .	88
Infant deaths (under one year)	.. .. .	3
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	.. .. .	35.7
	<i>(England & Wales 21.4 per 1,000)</i>	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	39
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate		
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		23.8
Early neo-natal mortality rate		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)		23.8

Perinatal mortality rate				
(stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000				
total live and still births)	..	..	..	68.2
Maternal mortality .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total births..	..	..	..	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

155 cases were notified.

Scarletina

1 case was notified.

Pneumonia

2 cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

2 cases were notified during 1961.

Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria

There were no notifications during 1961, and all other infectious diseases were absent.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Bellingham Rural District is 246,645 acres.

The estimated population for 1961 is 5,410.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1961, was 1,706 of which 169 are owned by the Local Authority.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £319.

The rateable value is £79,178.

HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities in the area continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle General Hospital, which gives an efficient service.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided for the County Council by the Red Cross, and a satisfactory service is maintained. In addition to the ambulance, a car service is avail-

able for suitable cases and is of considerable value in such a large district. Since the passenger train service was discontinued much extra mileage has been run to allow patients to keep hospital appointments and to allow mothers and children to attend clinics, but the use of the service appears to have stabilised now.

During 1961 a call house was established at the British Red Cross Society ambulance depot in Bellingham, at which requests for the ambulance car service are received.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

The district nurses are all provided with cars and their nursing work continues to be excellent. In spite of the difficulty of arranging for suitable help in a country district, the Home Help Service run by the County Council continues to function satisfactorily. The County Health Visitors work in harmony with the General Practitioners in the area and do much valuable work.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Five Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, staffed by the County Council, operate at Bellingham, Otterburn, Byrness, Kielder and Wark. Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at these centres or is done by the General Practitioner, while all vaccination is carried out by the General Practitioners. The demand for poliomyelitis vaccination has been met, in the age groups eligible, by vaccination at clinics and the surgeries of family doctors.

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal statistics for the years 1958-1961.

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1958	18.22	8.01	Nil.
1959	21.61	7.42	9.6
1960	19.8	10.8	27.9
1961	17.37	12.75	35.7

ANNUAL RETURNS OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS, YEAR 1961

Food Poisoning Notifications Returned to Registrar General

1ST ATR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Outbreaks due to identified agents	Nil
Outbreaks of undiscovered cause	Nil
Single Cases :				
Agent identified	Nil
Unknown cause	Nil
Total				Nil

TABLE II.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1961 :—

Notifiable Disease	Males.	Females	Totals
Scarlet Fever.. ..	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	58	97	155
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	2
Dysentery	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Totals	60	100	160

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1961 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Bellingham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	I	I	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

Age Groups			Males	Females	Totals.
0—1 ..	..	..	3	—	3
1—9 ..	..	..	—	—	—
10—19 ..	..	..	I	—	I
20—29 ..	..	..	—	—	—
30—39 ..	..	..	—	2	2
40—49 ..	..	..	2	I	3
50—59 ..	..	..	4	5	9
60—69 ..	..	..	3	2	5
70—79 ..	..	..	10	12	22
80—89 ..	..	..	9	12	21
90—99 ..	..	..	I	2	3
Totals ..	..	..	33	36	69

INFANT MORTALITY

during year ending 31st December, 1961

35.7 per 1,000 live Births

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

According to Registrar General's Classification.

Causes of Death	1960		1961	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ..	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and para- sitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach ..	—	—	—	1
11. do. Lung and Bronchus ..	2	—	2	—
12. do. Breast ..	—	2	—	3
13. do. Uterus ..	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms ..	4	2	2	3
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5	2	9
18. Coronary Disease, Angina..	5	5	11	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	—	—
20. Other heart disease ..	8	3	4	7
21. Other circulatory disease ..	1	—	3	—
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	—	2	1
24. Bronchitis	1	1	1	—
25. Other diseases of respira- tory system	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach & duo- denum	2	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarr- hoea	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	—	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations..	—	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ..	3	1	4	2
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ..	1	—	—	1
34. All other accidents..	1	1	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
	37	22	33	36
	59		69	

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961

The standard of environmental hygiene in large measure is conditional upon and presupposes the provision of the prime essential services of a local authority, namely, water, sewerage and sewage disposal, and housing. It is to the credit of the local authority that a bold and imaginative policy has been pursued over the years and, although there are still pockets where improvement can be effected, solid progress in these fundamental services has been achieved.

Bellingham area, being the third largest local government unit in the Kingdom, some 246,645 acres, or 380 square miles, faces the problem of equating increasing high capital costs to "sweep up" the remaining pockets against need and what may be considered "reasonable" expenditure.

WATER

Where it would be prohibitive in cost to connect to the mains supply of the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, local sources have been harnessed to afford supplies to isolated holdings. Such individual schemes, in the majority of cases, have attracted grant-aid from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and The House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959.

New private supplies during the year : 12.

Number of dwellings supplied from public mains (Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company) is as under :

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Properties</i>	<i>Population</i>
Bellingham	333	1,165
Tarset	48	168
Falstone	30	105
Wark	198	693
Otterburn	74	260
Rochester (including Byrness) ..	70	245
W odburn	139	486

Kirkwhelpington . . . . .	..	..	42	146
Birtley .. .. .	..	..	33	116
Forestry Commission private supply to Kielder .. ..	..	..	112	392
British Railways private supply to Reedsmouth .. ..	..	..	12	41

Samples

This is referred to in the Medical Officer of Health's section. Where analyses have proved unsatisfactory, follow-up samples have been taken and technical advice given on problems arising from collection and storage of private sources of supply. Again mention is made of the splendid co-operation which exists between Dr. A. T. Palin, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., Chief Chemist, Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, which leads to excellent collating of results and field work.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main settlement groups in the two principal valleys of the North Tyne and Rede have been provided with works of sewerage and sewage disposal :

Local Authority	Bellingham Woodburn Wark Birtley	}	Operational
	Otterburn :		Work nearing completion.
	Kirkwhelpington :		Approved by Ministry of Housing & Local Government.
	Ridsdale :		Scheme prepared — awaiting Ministry Inquiry.
Forestry Commission	Kielder Butteryhaugh Stonehaugh Byrness	}	Operational

Mention was made last year of proposals for a new scheme at Lewisburn Camping Site. These have now been approved and the contract is in progress. This should provide first class treatment works for a camping site which is maintaining its popularity in an area of scenic beauty.

Private Septic Tanks

A further 10 treatment plants have been installed.

HOUSING

Local Authority building : 21 houses under construction at
Otterburn
4 O.A.P. bungalows at Wark.
Private building : 2
Other Housing Authority : 1

Apart from possible new Council housing at Wark, generally the need has been met. Housing of aged people is a factor which will increasingly come to the fore. Actually, figures support the case for further houses for aged persons, where in many instances there is underoccupation of a Council house, economic strain and physical weakness in maintaining a larger house.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Improvement — Reconditioning

27 applications for Discretionary grants and 4 applications for Standard grants were approved.

During the year, financial assistance to grant-aided schemes completed amounted to £8,147.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-1959

One grant was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Systematic cleansing of the villages and properties along the route has been maintained. The areas covered are :

Bellingham	Wark	Ridsdale
Reedsmouth	Stonehaugh	Great Bavington
Greenhaugh	Birtley	Little Bavington
Kirkharle	Falstone	Rochester
Kirkwhelpington	Kielder	Otterburn
Byrness	East Woodburn	West Woodburn

Tips. There are nine tips in the area, situate at :

Birtley	Woodburn	Knowesgate
Otterburn	Falstone	Stonehaugh
Hareshaw	Kielder	Byrness

New Tipping area is urgently needed to cover Birtley and Wark Villages.

Employees : 2 loader-drivers and 3 loaders.

Tonnage : 3,332 tons.

Costs are obviously increasing with the addition of new properties. The cost of such service is £4,585.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One operator is in the employ of the Council and methods of treatment are those approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Treatments :

Sewers : Regular and systematic treating in Bellingham, Woodburn, Wark and Birtley.

Farms and Business Premises	..	9	
Tips	.. .. .	12	
Other properties	.. .. .	13	Total .. 34

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1954.

There are five butchers in the area — three operate slaughterhouses and two buy carcass meat. 100% meat inspection is maintained. 8 slaughterman's licences have been issued.

Analysis of inspection is as under :

Bullocks	.. .. .	191	
Heifers	.. .. .	105	
Pigs	.. .. .	67	
Sheep	.. .. .	432	Total .. 795

Condemned :—

<i>Bovine</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
17 livers	1 head	2 livers
2 hearts	1 liver	1 pluck
3 prs. lungs	1 leg	
1 Bullock (770 lbs.)	2 kidneys	

Other Foods :

Other foods examined and found unfit for human consumption :—

18 tins Meat	1 tin Pudding	4 tins Tomatoes
1 tin Fish	3 tins Soup	5 tins Evaporated Milk
1 tin Fruit	4 tins Peas	4 tins Condensed Milk

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

Licences issued during the year are as under :

West Wylam and Prudhoe Co-op. Society Branches :

Bellingham	}	Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested.
Wark		
Falstone		

W. Hogg, Fourstones — retails in the area — Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested.

G. Craghill, Wark — retails Tuberculin Tested.

M. Slassor, Ridsdale — retails Sterilised.

J. M. Robson, Newcastleton — retails Tuberculin Tested.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Some 56 premises in the area come within the scope of this legislation. Regular and systematic inspection is maintained.

Food Premises : The following are the types of food premises in the district :

Bakeries	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers	..	..	..	..	5
Cafes ..	..	..	..	..	7
Clubs	..	..	..	..	4
General Dealers (Grocers, etc.)	..			..	18
Public Houses	..	..	..		11
School Kitchens	..	..	..		9

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Six cases were reported where nuisances through pollution were caused. Informal representation resolved these problems.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES :			
Privies and privy ashpits abolished ..	12	—	12
Water closets provided	12	—	12
Number of above for which grant was given (P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 47)	—	—	—
Sanitary bins provided	31	—	31
DRAINAGE :			
New drains constructed	61	—	61
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	17	—	17
Additional gullies provided	376	—	376
Old gullies replaced	27	—	27
Scullery sinks provided	47	—	47
Scullery waste pipes repaired	19	—	19
Scullery waste pipes trapped	17	—	17
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	16	—	16

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing :

Demolition	15
Improvements and Repairs ..	607
Verminous premises	8
Water Supply	95
Drainage	297
Factories and Workshops	24
Licensed Premises	81
Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	307
Rodent Control	36
Infectious Disease	48
Slaughterhouses	540
Shops	296
Fishmongers (vans)	10
Bakeries	96

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959. Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	18	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	56	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	9	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act. Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork.

This part is not applicable to this Rural Area.

Continuing progress is recorded in the field of environmental hygiene during the year under review. Thanks are due to the loyalty of Staff in the Department and the active co-operation of the members of the Council.

I am.

Your obedient Servant,

S. CLOUGH,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

